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Message Text

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S/S-O:MTANNER
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 103897 TOSEC 110360

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOR SAUNDERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 2310 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
JIDDA 29 APRIL 76.

QUOTE

S E C R E T AMMAN 2310

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR MASS JO US SA UR
SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

REF: (A) STATE 110314, (B) JIDDA 3076, (C) AMMAN 2301

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1. VERY MUCH APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL A. APPARENT THAT

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INSTRUCTIONS
CROSSED REFTELS (B) AND (C) AND THAT LATTER TWO CABLES RAISE SOME
ISSUES WHICH I BELIEVE I SHOULD EXPLORE WITH YOU BEFORE
DELIVERING INSTRUCTIONS.

2. PRIMARY APPROACH HERE HAS BEEN TO WORK WITH KING ON AN EFFORT TO
REASSURE HIM THAT WE WERE GOING AT THE QUESTION OF FUNDING A FULL
SYSTEM IN PHASES. WHILE CURENT EFFORT HAS BEEN OF NECESSITY
DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO SAUDI PART OF THE ARRANGEMENT, I BELIEVE
THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO BE EQUALLY GENERAL (OR SPECIFIC) WITH
KING ON THE PHASE TWO QUESTION AS WITH PHASE ONE. THIS MEANS THAT
IF AND WHEN SAUDI OFFER WORKED OUT BY AMBASSADOR PORTER TO
INCREASE FUNDING TO 500 MILLION LEVEL IS PRESENTED HERE IT CAN
BE DONE IN LIGHT OF THE FULL PACKAGE. KING HAS NOT BEEN INTIMATELY
INVOLVED IN DETAILS OF PACKAGE AND SO GENERALITIES CAN HELP
TOGETHER WITH CITATIONS OF SPECIFIC ITEMS
FOR EXAMPLE WHICH COULD BE INCLUDED IN EACH PHASE.

3. THIS REFTEL (A) PARA 7 TAKES ON SOME IMPORTANCE IN AND OF ITSELF
AND ALSO REGARDING WAY I APPROACH PHASE I, IE I WOULD LIKE TO AVOID
CONCEPT THAT WE HAVE "CUT"PACKAGE (PARA 2) OF NON ESSENTIAL ITEMS
THIS IS IN PART TURE BECAUSE PHASING OF FUNDING DOES NOT NECESSARILY
IN OUR JUDGEMENT HAVE TO RELATE TO PACKAGES IF AFTER JORDANIANS
OBTAIN SAUDI COMMITEMENT THEY WISH TO BEGIN FUDING ALL LONG LEADTIME
ITMES FROM WHATEVER PHASE WITHIN THE $500M AND RELY ON SECOND
PHASE TO COVER ON GOING COSTS IN LATER PERIOD IE 1978-1979. IN
FACT IN A CONVERSATION WITH RIFAI LAST NIGHT HE TOLD ME THAT ALL
WE REALLY NEED IS A REASONABLE SAUDI COMMITEMENT ALONG THE LINES
DISCUSSED WITH HASSAN AND THE BASIC DOWNPAYMENT. HE IMPLIES THEN
SOME CONFIDENCE THAT OUTYEAR FUNDING CAN BE OBTAINED. BUT THIS VIEW
IS NOT YET FULLY SHARED BY KING, AND HE HAS
BUILT IT UP WITH ME ENOUGH TIMES TO KNOW THAT IT COULD BECOME A
STICKING POINT IF WE CANNOT SAY SOMETHING A LITTLE MORE THAN
REFTEL (A) SECRETARY'S MESSAGE OF APRIL 18 OF COURSE INDICATED
THAT SECOND STAGE WOULD LOOK AT WAYS OF DUDING LOWER
PRIORITY EQUIPMENT. AMMAN 1449 REQUEST AND STATE 066403
APPROVED MY INDICATING THAT WE DID NOT DISCARD THE POSSIBILITY
OF US CREDIT AND PRESS STORIES HAVE INDICATED IN MUCH MORE DETAIL
THAT SUCH A STEP IS UNDER CONSIDERATION, SUBJECT TO REACTION OF
CONGRESS. I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SAYTHAT IF SADIS ARE PREPARED
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TO FUND FULLY THE FIRST STATE AND WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE
WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS ON THAT POINT WE ARE PREPARED TO DO ALL
WE CAN TO PROVIDE FOR A CONTINUING PROGRAM TO INSURE AN ADEQUATE
AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM FOR JORDAN (REFTEL B) ALONG THE LINES WE HAVE
PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED TOGETHER. IN PARTICUARL WE ARE READY TO WORK
FROM THE CONGRESS IN 1978 AND FOLLOWING YEARS MILITARY CREDIT
TO COVER THE ACTUAL COSTS OF THE PAMENT DUE IN THOSE YEARS
(AND NOT COVEREC BY SAUDI PHASE I FUNDS) ON GOING ITEMS OF THE

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AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM FOR JORDAN. THESE APPROACHES
TO CONGRESS WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO OUR REGULAR ON GOING PROGRAMS
AT CURRENT LEVELS. GIVEN THE GENERALLY FAVORABLE RESPONSE WHICH
CREDITS FOR JORDAN HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY CONGRESS WE HAVE REASON
TO BELIEVE THAT THESE APPROACHES WILL BE SUCCESSFUL. FYI WE
ESTIMATE ASIDE FROM $120M COST INFLACTION FACTOR ITEMS AND SITE
CONSTRUCTION AND ADMIN COSTS NOT PICKED UP BY GOJ WILL BE $70M-
$105M SPREAD OVER SEVERAL YEARS)

4.I DO NOT PLAN TO MAKE MY APPROACH TO KING UNTIL APRIL 30.

5.IN VIEW OF THE DIFFERNECES BETWEEN REFTEL B AND REFTEL C OVER
WHETHER JORDANIANS HAVE CONVEYED TO SAUDIS THEIR INTENTION TO
CONTINUE TO KEEP OPEN THE US AIR DEFENSE PROGRAM FUNDED BYSAUDIS,
I WILL RECONFIRM THAT POINT WITH CROWN PRINCE, ALTHOUGH OBVIOUSLY
SAUDI PERCEPTION WILL BE CONTROLLING. AS OF THIS POINT FROM EVERYTHIN
G
I HEARD LAST NIGHT (DESCRIBED IN DETAIL) HASSAN TOLD KHALID AND
FAHD DEAL WA STILL OPEN AND SAUDIS MADE SURE JORDANIANS UNDERSTOOD
THEY WERE WILLING TO DO GREAT DEAL TO HELP JORDAN. I DO NOT
EXPECT FURTHER CLARIFICATION OR REAFFIRMATION FROM
HASSAN TO CHANGE THAT POINT.

6. MY STAFF AND I HAVE POINT ABOUT REGIONAL AIR DEFENSE SOME
FURTHER THOUGHT. REFTEL C) WHILE DEPARTMENT IS IN BETTER POSITION
TO JUDGE WE HOPE CONCEPT IF USED CAN BE HANDLED IN A WAY TO MINIMIZE
ANY POSSIBLE ADVERSE ISRAELI (AND CONGRESSIONAL) REACTION.
WE NOT THAT ISRAELIS HAVE PRETTY CONSISTENTLY ATTACKED SAUDIS
AS STOREHOUSE AND PURVEYOR OF ARMS TO CONGRATION ARABS. WE WOULD
NOT BELIEVE THAT COMMON USAGE OF SOME FACILITIES BY JORDANIANS
ANDSAUDIS WOULD BE A REAL ISSUE. SALIENT QUESTION MAY WELL
BE NOT THE MECHANIC AND TECHNIQUES BUT WHETHER SAUDIS NEED AND
WILL FING POINT ABOUT REGIONAL AIR DEFENSE A COMFORTABLE
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FACESAVER FOR SOME INCREASE IN FUNDING.

7. FINALLY AT THE RISK OF OVERWHELMING YOUR INDULGENCE I WOULD
LIKE A LITTLE RELIEF FROM STRICT INJUNCTION IN PARA 2 THAT
IMPLIES I SHOULD SEE HUSSEIN FIRST. MAYBE THAT IS NOT WHAT YOU
MEANT. RIFAI FROM OUR TALKS LAST NIGHT SEEMS TO BE COMING AROUND
A LITTLE MORE ON THIS THAN THE KING AS HE DID OVER THE CONGRESSIONAL
CRUNCH LAST SEPTEMBER. HE IS STILL AS WE OFTEN LAMENT A POWERFUL
INFLUENCE ON THE KING. (HE TRIED LAST WEEK I AM SURE TO RESIGN
AND FAILED THIS WILL HELP IN HIS INFLUENCE) THIS I NEED SOME
LATITUDE TO PREPARE THE WAY A BIT WITH HIM ON SUCH THINGS AS
THE CONTRACT PROLONGATION IDEA AN APPROACH HE
SEEMED TO THINK WELL OF.ALSO I CANNOT OF COURSE EXCLUSE
POSSIBILITY THAT KING WILL HAVE RIFAI AT THE MEETING OR ASK
ME TO SEE RIFAI FIRST WHEN I ASK TO SEE HIM.

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